



82D AIRBORNE DIVISION

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM NEWSLETTER



Major General Chuck Swannack Commanding General 82D Airborne Division

Dear families and friends,

The 82D Airborne Division is in place and conducting combat operations in Iraq. Our area of operations is massive and encompasses an area that spans 530 kilometers, east to west, from Baghdad, and 410 kilometers, north to south, and encompasses 850 kilometers along the Syrian, Jordanian and Saudi Arabian borders. Our troopers are on the move, taking the fight to the enemy and their hard work is paying off.

I attribute the successes of our combat operations directly to the highly trained leaders and paratroopers in this Division and to the fact that we are a physically fit, mentally tough unit. Our pre-deployment training and rigorous physical fitness programs have ably prepared us for the harsh conditions in which we operate and have ensured that we are a lethal unit that gets every mission assigned done to standard of excellence.

We have been fortunate in that we have had very few injuries due to accidents. Safety is a critical component of our mission here and I have tasked the Division leadership to ensure that trooper safety is part of everything we do. I am confident that our emphasis on safety will ensure that we maintain very low trooper injury rates. We will continue to make safety one of our top priorities.

We continue to improve the soldier support systems and quality of life for the paratroopers of the Division. Work continues and we will not be satisfied until all troopers have a baseline quality of life that allows them to focus on our mission. Our mail service is in place and we see daily increases in the amount of mail that is delivered to our paratroopers. We are aggressively working to ensure that troopers are receiving all their pay entitlements and we have the necessary systems in place to ensure success.

I realize that we don't see all the problems that arise and I am sure that there may be issues that need to be addressed

back at Fort Bragg. I strongly encourage anyone who is encountering some unanticipated issue or problem to seek out the appropriate agency on Fort Bragg for assistance. If you need help finding the right agency please let your Family Readiness Group leader or unit's Rear Detachment Commander know so they can give you a hand. The Division staff also stands ready to assist in any way possible.

I would like to remind you of the numerous resources that your Family Readiness Group provides. Unit Family Readiness Groups and their associated programs are incred-



82D Airborne Division Paratroopers on Patrol.

ibly important and provide a great source of accurate and timely information on our progress over here. I encourage your active participation in FRG activities -- the FRG will make the challenges of this deployment easier.

I would like to close this edition of the newsletter by telling you what a great job your husbands, sons, daughters, and wives are doing and to let you know that your contributions are equally important and necessary. It is important to remember that with every passing day, we are succeeding in our mission to defeat an enemy that is a threat to our way of life. We are doing great things on behalf of our Nation -- thanks for everything that you are doing to support our efforts.

Troopers First, Mission Always!
MG Charles Swannack

**CSM Wolf Amacker
Command Sergeant Major
82D Airborne Division**

Dear Families and Friends of the All American Division,

On behalf of the paratroopers of this great Division, I wanted to personally tell you what a fantastic job your sons, daughters, wives and husbands are doing. They arrived in an austere, demanding and dangerous environment and immediately began establishing the incredibly high standards of conduct, performance and professionalism that they are known throughout the world for. Every senior leader in this Area of Operations has expressed their admiration and respect for the capabilities and attitude your troopers bring to the fight.



Hard Training = Victory in Combat!

Now that the All American's have taken over this area of operation, we will focus on aggressive execution of combat operations and rapid improvements to our quality of life and living conditions as only paratroopers can. In more familiar terms, we're going to "Get after it"! It goes without saying that our focus is the precise execution of combat power to achieve the mission we have been given. That said, taking care of the troopers remains our focus as always. Food service operations at all of our base camps have improved and our troopers are, almost without exception, living in tents and sleeping on cots when not conducting combat operations. Air conditioning and heating units will continue to multiply until we are all at a reasonable standard of living. We will continue to work very hard to provide an appropriate quality of life for our troopers - - they deserve the best and

any improvements will only make their mission easier to accomplish.

Mail service, always an issue, has really improved over the past several weeks. We see more and more mail getting into the hands of our paratroopers and we have also seen that it is taking less time for mail to get from Fort Bragg to Iraq. I have personally seen mail reach us in 8 days. While not the norm, it's an encouraging sign.

It's still very hot over here, but that has not slowed the troopers of the Division. They are highly trained, physically fit, and mentally tough warriors. Given the mission, they will never fail.

As we progress in the execution of our mission, many of our troopers may be challenged in their effort to get access to phones and the internet. Most of the places that we conduct operations and the locations where we are based are remote and have very little in the way of non-mission related automation. We are going to have to rely on normal mail delivery (which has worked well so far) to pass information back to Fort Bragg. We're working this issue hard, but I ask for your patience.

The troopers of the Division are charging fiercely after the enemy and we are sure to find them and take them down. You are a very big part of this mission and I want to personally thank you for all that you are doing to support us - - it makes a real difference. While I realize that you can't help but be concerned and anxious about the welfare of your loved ones, remember they are surrounded by their "extended family", other paratroopers - comrades. I am proud beyond words to be associated with the men and women of this great team and I know you are too. ATW!

CSM Wolf Amacker`



We own the night!



COL Perry Wiggins Commander 82D Aviation Brigade

On behalf of all the outstanding paratroopers of the Task Force Pegasus Team I send you greetings. As I am typing this letter the last

remaining members of the team are closing in on Forward Operating Base (FOB) Ridgway. It has been an amazing journey the past two months and I am extremely proud of the exceptional performance and effort displayed by each and every member of the team.



Now that the major muscle movements of the deployment process are complete the focus has shifted to improving the quality of life for soldiers at FOB Ridgway. Plans are underway to build a Life Support Area (LSA) that provides air-conditioned tents, contracted consolidated dining facility, Moral Welfare Recreation (MWR) facility, AFFES concession, gymnasium, barber shop, cyber café, cappuccino bar, phone banks and two food concessions. As you can imagine these facilities will not happen overnight but living tents are being constructed now and estimates have the LSA being completed in a couple of months. I can truly say that the hard work exhibited by soldiers thus far has transformed FOB Ridgway into an operational operating base and things are continuing to get better everyday. I almost forgot to mention that we are already enjoying warm showers and hot meals daily.

Task Force Pegasus wasted no time getting to the task at hand here in Iraq - to support Task Force All

American in getting rid of the "Bums" that don't want to see a democratic Iraq free from the tyranny of Saddam Hussein. We have flown numerous combat, combat support and combat service support missions throughout central and western Iraq. America can stand proud in the fact that these young Americans truly represent the best our nation has to offer and they serve as great ambassadors for our nation in the prosecution of this war on terrorism.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that the task force has grown larger since our arrival in theater. In addition to the "Bad Boys", Air Traffic Services, out of Fort Bragg and the weather squadron out of Pope Air Force Base we are proud to be joined by members of the 336th Engineers from Sturtevant, Wisconsin. These great Americans will serve as the fire rescue element at FOB Ridgway.

In closing, I would like to let all the families, friends, and loved ones know that your soldier's health and welfare is my number one priority and the leaders of this brigade are relentless in ensuring that their safety is closely monitored. Morale is extremely high and you can help in that endeavor by continuing to send those letters and packages. I ask for your help in one very important area. The communications at FOB Ridgway are quite immature at this time. This equates to your paratrooper not being able to contact you with the frequency you may have been accustomed to in the past. Please have patience as we are working this issue hard and expect resolution shortly. Thanks again for all that you do for each and member of Task Force Pegasus.

Pegasus 06



LTC Mike Wehr
Commander
307th Engineer Battalion (Airborne)



CSM Steve Stegich
Command Sergeant Major
307th Engineer Battalion (Airborne)

From Champion Base,

Greetings to the 307th Family Readiness Group. Your ongoing support, prayers, and just plain "making it happen in our absence attitude," keeps us all motivated over here in Iraq. As the battalion mirrors the three directions of the Division, we can personally verify that the proud heritage of the 307th Engineer Battalion continues.

Sappers continue to perform wonderfully in support of the divisions operations. Elements of Headquarters Company and the 618th Nasty are working hard at FOB Ridgeway repairing an airfield and improving the overall quality of life for their fellow division soldiers. The Sappers of B Co continue to provide direct support to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (FALCONS). 3rd Brigade Combat Team, (PANTHERS), continue to keep the Sappers of C Co busy at FOB St. Michael, Chosin and St Mere. A&B platoon and the remainder of the battalion Headquarters call FOB Champion Base home. As you can see the engineer footprint spans the entire division area here in Iraq. Soldiers of the battalion



continue to conduct a variety of missions from combat patrols, to improving living conditions, to rehabilitation of the local infrastructure. There is no shortage of work for an engineer here, that's for sure!

Everyday here in Iraq, someone's life is made better, safer or more comfortable due to the hard work of your sons , daughters, husbands, wives, all on the engineer team.

We are working very hard at every location to improve the communications with loved ones and the rear. We ask for your understanding and patience as this steadily improves. Your mail is starting to arrive, please keep it coming. Remember to mail early for Christmas.

On behalf of the battalion, thank you for supporting our paratroopers as they continue to fight our nation's war on terrorism. Your own service at home to our nation, the challenges you have seen, and your contributions to the lineage of the battalion inspire the paratroopers and leaders today to do their very best. In closing for now, your continued understanding and communications with the rear detachment commander helps to keep everyone informed. Please do not hesitate to contact the battalion rear-detachment, CPT Brent Legreid at 432-5807.

God Bless our Paratroopers, Airborne All the Way....
Sapper 6 and Sapper 7

**COL Glen Takemoto
Commander
Division Support Command**



To our DISCOM Family,

The majority of the DISCOM is now established at Forward Operating Base Ridgway. However, we are spread throughout Iraq from the streets of Baghdad to the western reaches of the country.

Thanks to the hard work of many DISCOM troopers, the Division has set records for rapidly deploying and for moving from 7 different locations in Kuwait to our division area of operations. Most convoyed up in a long 3 day journey over dangerous terrain. Upon arrival, we began quickly to build our base and support the division. We are overcoming the harsh conditions and building tent cities with air-conditioning, floors, portalets, showers, and serving hot meals.

FOB Ridgway is very austere and had been bombed and looted prior to our arrival, but we are rapidly rebuilding the facilities here in order to support the 82d Team and to improve the quality of life for our troopers. In fact, our top priorities are constant force protection and quality of life improvements.



Our troopers are out making everyone proud, setting the standard, supporting the over 19,000 troopers in our Task Force All-American.



Thank you for your support to our paratroopers. Your encouragement and support is a key factor to our soldiers' high morale. Over here, we are building a PX, setting up an internet café, and many other quality of life projects. We are also ensuring all our soldiers remain focused, combat oriented, and follow all safety guidelines.

Our new mailing address for our soldiers at TQ:

SGT Super Trooper
HHC DISCOM, 82d Airborne Division
Attn: DREAR
APO AE 03984

All the way, Airborne!

COL GLENN H. TAKEMOTO

All American's in Action



Making a Difference in Iraq!





LTC Tomi King
Commander
3-4 Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Greetings to all and I pray that all is well with each of you as we continue to perform our important missions here in Iraq. Skystrickers are currently supporting the division operations with Skystrickers in direct support of the 2nd Brigade Combat team (Falcons) and 3rd Brigade Combat Team (Panthers) and the remaining of the Skystricker battalion providing Base Camp Security at Forward Operating Base Ridgway. I have visited the Skystrickers supporting 3rd BCT and have talked with the Skystrickers supporting 2nd BCT and the remainder of the BN is located with me at FOB Ridgway. The troopers are performing exceptional



in each location and you should be proud of your sons, daughters, husbands and wives; they are representing you well.

The quality of life is improving daily at every location we are working hard to improve living conditions, the safety of our troopers and the communication links with our loved ones back home. I want to thank each of you for your continued support and making the Family Readiness Groups work through constant communication with the rear detachment and the links established with the 3-4 yahoo group. Your constant communication has allowed

us to pass information quickly to family members and to update you on the status of your loved ones. Mail is beginning to flow please keep the letters coming it is really a motivator and the troops look forward to mail call. Our battalion newsletter is still being published monthly and I send updates from Iraq make sure you are getting the newsletter, if you have any issues don't hesitate to contact the rear detachment commander Major Jed Sorenson the Battalion XO.

From the eyes of the commander. As we conduct all of the important missions in Iraq I want to take a moment to share with you my thoughts on current operations. First and foremost you must know that we are needed in this country and our daily operations continue to improve the safety and security of the Iraqi people. As I travel around Iraq the many Iraqi nationals that welcome our presence and understand our desire to bring stability and peace to this country moves me. I have had the opportunity to visit local villages and communicate with village leaders to establish a positive relationship that fosters peace and good will. In these meetings they welcome our presence and we continue to improve our relationship daily. However, Iraq remains a dangerous place as we continue to conduct missions to defeat those who oppose peace. As you watch the news back home I'm sure you are well aware of the dangers we face but know that we are doing everything to ensure the safety of our troopers.

Thanks again for all that you do and it is indeed an honor and privilege to serve with your sons, daughters, husbands and wives. Keep the Skystrickers in your prayers as we do our nation's work.

God's Blessings,

Airborne, All the Way.....By Daring Deeds!!!
Skystriker 6



COL Scott Thein
Commander
319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment



CSM Michael Williams
Command Sergeant Major
319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment

Dear Friends and Family of the DIVARTY,

Paratroopers of the 319th AFAR are engaged supporting all aspects of Division Operations in the Iraqi Province of Al Anbar. From combat operations to supporting the establishment of Democracy, troopers from the DIVARTY are playing key roles. To accomplish our assigned tasks, we are task organized with troopers from 21st Chemical Company and the 234th Field Artillery Acquisition Detachment. We are engaged in three very different missions contributing to the 82d Airborne Division's early success. These missions, Champion Base Operations, Consolidation of Enemy Ammunition, and Civil Military Affairs are vital components aiding to the accomplishment of the mission to restore order and provide the framework for democracy to the people of Iraq.

The paratroopers of HHB, 319th AFAR are currently engaged in Base Operations and Base Defense of Champion Base in Ar Ramadi. The Consolidation of Enemy Ammunition is being conducted by the paratroopers of the 21st Chemical Company under the control of the DIVARTY. Finally, elements of the DIVARTY are working with the 304th Civil Affairs Brigade enhance security and self-government for the people of the Al Anbar Province.

The Loyalty Battalion is providing outstanding support to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team (BCT). The battalion is fully engaged with providing fire support for combat operations and is spearheading the 3rd BCT's civil-military operations effort.

We finally reunited with the soldiers from Falcon's Fury. Although they and the rest of the 2nd BCT continue to support the 1st AD in Baghdad, it is surely great to have contact with them again. Falcon's Fury continues to provide highly adaptable world-class fire support and is conducting combat patrolling on the most major supply route in the 2nd BCT AO. Several were surprised at the level of excellence they achieved while executing this task. It didn't surprise any of us.

We are proud of the efforts and the professionalism of every trooper in the Regiment. They are truly making a difference for the units they support and the people of Al Anbar. This region is the most challenging of all those in Iraq. The Province is the size of Wyoming. The people we encounter range from city dwellers to nomadic



Bedouin. More in-depth information is forthcoming in the DIVARTY and Battalion FRG Newsletters. We appreciate all of the support from the Gun Devils, our Rear Detachments and FRGs; your hard work at home allows us to concentrate on the numerous tasks at hand here. We are extremely proud of the contributions your loved ones make to the people of Al Anbar on a daily basis.

COL Scott E. Thein and CSM Michael Williams





LTC Tim Ryan
Commander
82D Soldier Support Battalion (Airborne)



From Kuwait City to Ar Ramadi and all points in between, 82d Soldier Support Battalion paratroopers are making a positive difference by providing essential personnel and finance service to over 10,000 Task Force soldiers.

As much as our environment from Ft. Bragg has changed, our most important tenants remain the same. The standards for the All American Division begin at the gateway of the 82d Replacement Company, and while the Division operates in this theater, that gateway is manned by SSG Singleton and SPC Crawford at the Kuwait International Airport and by SGT Mack at Baghdad International Airport where they receive inbound troopers and assist those redeploying under operational or emergency leave conditions.



The battalion's standard for quality personnel and finance support has gotten underway in earnest as CPT Holly Turner and B FAST joined 3 BCT's 3-day ground convoy into Iraq. After arriving safely at Forward Operating Base St. Mere, B FAST immediately began improving work and living areas. To date, B FAST has provided personnel and pay support to hundreds of 3 BCT troopers at FOB St. Mere and outlying FOBs through mobile support missions. The battalion's main body arrived at Forward Operation Base Ridgway by both air and ground convoy during the last week of September, and the consensus from all is that living conditions and quality of life have exceeded every expectation. Prior to our arrival, the Division's advanced party, including MAJ Mark Bennett, did a phenomenal job of contracting services and infrastructure improvements to enable us to get on with our job of taking care of paratroop-

ers. (Showers, two hot meals and air conditioners were all welcome surprises. And soon our buildings will have 220v electricity, so we can actually use the AC). What contracting has not accomplished, CSM White, along with every soldier in the battalion, has more than filled the gap by building doors, wardrobes, and shelves to put the finishing touches on our temporary home. Make no mistake - our standard of living improves every day.

On 27 Sep, we welcomed the 316th Postal Company into the battalion fold. Commanded by CPT Leo Devora and 1SG Javier Guadalupe, this impressive team of 35 USAR soldiers based out of Queens, NY, along with the division's pilots, truck drivers and mail handlers have been working around the clock to deliver the most precious MWR commodity on the battlefield - our mail. Much of our mail has been staged in Baghdad awaiting the Division's move from Kuwait to Iraq, and given the volatility of our Area of Operation, mail distribution from Baghdad to FOB Ridgway and onward to outlying units has been intermittent. However, I expect within a week, we'll have a routine delivery schedule to the Division's primary operating bases.



Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers, and special appreciation to those SSB leaders and paratroopers at Ft. Bragg who are doing the battalion's heavy lifting. While a majority of the SSB's troopers are deployed, we are ever mindful that there is not a commensurate shift in work. Thanks again for all you have done and continue to do towards caring for our families and taking care of the Division's most indispensable battlefield operating system - our paratroopers.

All The Way!
LTC Tim Ryan



COL Jefforey Smith
Commander
505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

Greetings from Task Force Panther in Iraq. The temperatures are improving.

During the day, the highs are finally dropping below 100 degrees and the evenings are in the seventies. Our living conditions are improving as well. We are working hard to improve quality of life for our soldiers and security at each of our Forward Operating Bases (FOBs). An AAFES PX will be established soon at FOB St Mere. Additionally, in order to reduce combat stress on our soldiers, we are implementing a platoon Rest and Relaxation (R&R) program that will take soldiers off the line for 3 days and allow them to relax in a secluded area on FOB St Mere.

The brigade is spread across an 80km by 100km area West and South of Baghdad. In the West, we are occupying three FOBs vicinity of Al Fallujah: FOBs St Mere, Volturno, and Mercury. South of Baghdad we have established two bases: FOB Chosin near Al Iskandariyah and FOB St Michael near Mahmudiyah. Attached to the brigade for OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM are several units. TF 1-32 IN from Fort Drum, N.Y. is operating in and around the city of Al Iskandariyah where it is securing an electrical power plant that provides one fifth of the power for all of Iraq. Additionally, TF 1-32 IN is making great headway in the city itself, as well as the surrounding areas. A/1-16 IN from Ft. Riley, Kansas is attached to TF 1-504 at Camp Mercury. From the National Guard, we have the 489th ENG Battalion from Arkansas and A Company, 890th ENG Battalion from Mississippi. Additionally, Civil Affairs Teams and Psychological Operations teams from the Army Reserve and the 855th Military Police Company out of Arizona are providing critical support to the Brigade on a daily basis.

The Brigade is focused on improving relations with the



citizens and leadership of our part of Iraq. The Civil Affairs teams focus on interaction with local government while the Psychological Operations teams focus on helping the Brigade get information out to the local population. To support these efforts, the brigade created a newspaper that serves as a means to get our message out to the local population. The paper is published in both English and Arabic and contains articles and pictures provided by each of the battalions. In addition to supporting the Brigade with artillery fires, 1-319th is coordinating Civil Military Operations throughout or area. We are currently focusing on improving the quality of the schools in our area by improving the buildings and providing classroom materials. This is a timely issue as the Iraqi children began their school year during the last week. Improving the schools is a coordinated effort between the United States Government, the United Nations, Non-Governmental Organizations, and the members of Task Force Panther in conjunction with our local city governments. Additionally, the battalions are working with local city leaders and local contractors to improve public works such as power, sewage, water, and sanitation.

TF Panther remains focused on removing hostile elements that are attempting to disrupt the security of the Iraqi people and our attempts to work together with them to improve their lives. Recently we captured Jafal Noar, one of the instigators responsible for the riots and civil





unrest that occurred in Al Fallujah in April when the 2nd Brigade of the 82nd were operating in this area.

We are working to improve our ability to communicate with the families back home, rear detachment, and Family Readiness Groups. Internet Cafes will soon be installed at all of our Forward Operating Bases. These packages will include telephone services that will allow soldiers to call home using phone calling cards. Such systems will allow soldiers to call more than the 10 minutes currently authorized per week. Plus, the systems will be more reliable, provide better quality, and will be more accessible to all soldiers.

The members of the brigade combat team believe that we are winning the fight in our zone, that we are making a positive impact on the future of Iraq. Already, we can see the improvements that we are making in each city. With greater frequency, we are seeing the local Iraqis show their support and gratitude for our efforts.

We want you to know that the families of Task Force Panther are constantly in our thoughts.

CPT Scott Trahan **Headquarters and Headquarters Company** **82D Airborne Division**

Greetings family and friends from Iraq! Headquarters, 82nd Airborne Division, "All Americans" have had an eventful six weeks since deploying.

Soldiers from the Division's Headquarters were some of the first to hit the ground in order to receive the Division. We began by establishing a temporary staging area in Kuwait. We made preparations, which included checking vehicles, weapons, ordering fuel, water, and food in order to get ready. The biggest task we accomplished was the

downloading of a ship, which brought the lion's share of the Company's equipment into the theater of operations. Paratroopers made the 60-kilometer drive from the port to the staging area in temperatures that ranged from 110 to 125 degrees.

After accounting for and checking our equipment, the All Americans made a three-day journey into Iraq. All of the Paratroopers made it to their destinations safely. There was the occasional flat tire, overheating or other typical maintenance problems associated with a long convoy but over all it was a good trip.



Headquarters, 82nd Airborne Division is spread between several locations but the majority of our Troopers are located at Champion Main or Forward Operating Base Ridgway. At both locations supporting the rebuilding of Iraq and improving the quality of life began immediately.

Several Troopers proved their commitment and loyalty to the Division by reenlisting here in Iraq for continued service with the 82nd Airborne Division. SSG Castro (G4), SGT Overton (G3), SPC Crites (LSA) and SPC Judge (G2), all reenlisted to stay with the "All Americans". Additionally, PFC Judge was promoted to Specialist and



SPC Basso (PAO) was promoted to Sergeant. Our thoughts and prayers are with our families and friends at home. Know that your Troopers are working hard and are committed to the mission of rebuilding Iraq so that we may make a safe return home.

All The Way, Airborne
CPT Scott Trahan

CPT Wade Brown, Commander, 82D Military Police Company (Airborne)



Greetings soldiers, family members, and friends of the 82d MP CO. The 82d MP CO says hello to all from the deserts and plains of Iraq.

Since the unit's deployment in AUG03, the company has conducted convoy security missions, personal security services, area security missions, force protection, and head-quarter security throughout the entirety of Iraq. Specifically, 3/82d MP CO operates from forward operating base (FOB) St. Mere. 4/82d MP CO, HQ/82d MP CO, and the Division PMO section, all operate from Champion Main located in Ar Ramadi. Additionally, 2/82d MP CO operates throughout Baghdad proper. Second and third platoons operate in direct support; the platoons work intimately and solely with their aligned infantry brigade. Fourth platoon operates as a general support asset; the platoon conducts military police operations as dictated by the 82d Airborne Division Command Group.

Thanks to 1SG Pickett and the division staff, your loved ones and friends live in well-appointed hard sites. Specifically, the compound occupied by the 82d MP CO has electricity, air conditioning, and is currently being refurbished with new doors, windows, and furniture. Soon, each soldier will have a bed to call his or her own, as well as shelving units. Likewise, all soldiers have unhindered access to shower and laundry facilities, the latter being provided by washing machines and dryers purchased by the unit. Due to 1SG Pickett's diligence, all company soldiers have access to phone lines to call loved ones and friends in the United States and e-mail access to send messages to the aforementioned. A contracted DFAC serves hot meals four times a day to soldiers. By NOV03, the compound will also boast a gymnasium and movie theater. Make no mistake, the soldiers of the 82d MP CO live well given the environment. The personnel of this unit daily represent themselves exceedingly well. No exaggeration- without your sons, daughters, wives, and husbands of the 82d MP CO, the steady state operations and life support requirements of the division would cease to function and fail to exist. 82d MP CO soldiers are the best mechanics, supply sergeants, squad leaders, and operations sergeants in division-bar none. As their commander, I am extremely proud of your family members; I know you feel likewise.

On a sadder note, the Provost Marshal of the 82d Airborne Division, MAJ(P) McCloskey, will soon leave the fold of the 82d MP CO and retire from service. MAJ(P)

McCloskey directly controls and maneuvers three MP companies in Iraq and additionally maintains overall responsibility for the creation, execution, and continued existence of the Iraqi police academy specific to Ar Ramadi. MAJ Layton, the Deputy Provost Marshal will assume the duties and responsibilities of the Provost Marshal once MAJ McCloskey departs.

I ask all family members and friends to continue to use the company as its sole source for reliable information concerning family members and friends. Please, let the company work for you in terms of information dissemination. Please do not take information gleaned from sources outside the unit as the gospel truth; it is not. When informa-



tion, regardless of the topic becomes available, and more importantly confirmed, the unit FRG, led by Diane Pickett, will disseminate the information in a timely and efficient manner.

Again, you should feel extremely proud of your family members, specifically for bringing freedom, guaranteed rights, and a better quality of life to a country in the midst of a civil re-birth. It is an honor and sacred privilege to serve along side all of your family members. Please don't hesitate to express your gratitude, via letters, e-mails, and care packages to your loved ones; they are well deserving of the accolades. Take care and AIRBORNE!

CPT Wade Brown

LTC Nick Guarino Commander, 313th Military Intelligence Battalion (Airborne)



Greetings from Iraq! September was a very busy and transitional month for the 313th MI Bn. We successfully deployed the Battalion from Fort Bragg to Kuwait and as you may have heard, we departed our tactical assembly area and have safely arrived at our final destinations in Iraq. With the whole 313th MI Bn team now in our operational area and settled in, we are getting after the business at hand. The fall season is finally upon us and the milder climate is refreshing. With each passing day the temperature drops a little. Yesterday, for the first time since we arrived in theater, the temperatures did not go over 95 degrees.

Our quality of life gets better every day. Most of us live in air-conditioned facilities, get at least two hot meals a day, and have access to shower facilities. We also have access to Email and Morale Calls. So if you haven't already, you should be hearing more regularly from your paratrooper by mail, email, or phone. I hope you have been able to check out the unit web site <http://www.bragg.army.mil/afvc-z/> where we have posted pictures of life here. My goal is to send new photos every 2 weeks or so. If you have not seen a picture or heard from your trooper, please send me a message through your FRG representative and I will ensure you get a picture and that they are given an opportunity to contact you.

The Battalion is providing fantastic intelligence support to the Division. Each day our soldiers do a great service for our nation. They are out gathering the information that allows commanders to conduct combat and stability operations in order to defeat those remaining elements of resistance and allow a once-oppressed people to become free.



Everyone is working hard, staying motivated, and doing an outstanding job. I hope that you are as proud of them as I am. We are taking care of each other and doing our best to keep everyone safe. Now that the mail floodgates are open, please keep the mail coming. There's nothing like returning from a long days work to find a letter or package waiting for you. It's these small things and knowing that our families are safe, healthy, and happy, that allows us to stay focused on the job at hand. I am equally proud of our families and appreciate what you do for our paratroopers. I hope



that everyone has the opportunity to participate in Jammer Day and that you all enjoy this time together.

All The Way!

Very Respectfully,
LTC Nick Guarino





FALCON NEWS

To all family members of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, another month has rapidly passed putting the BCT one more month closer to returning home sometime this winter. During the month of September, the BCT continued to make many improvements within our area of responsibility in southern Baghdad. We are extremely proud of these accomplishments. Highlights from the past month were continued successful daily operations, the initiation of environmental leave program, and the BCT's legal team work with the Immigration and Naturalization Services to gain citizenship for some of our troopers.

2nd Brigade's daily operations have yielded huge successes. Those attempting to cause harm to our paratroopers are aggressively being hunted and found daily. Additionally, our hard work is resulting in numerous weapon caches being found and destroyed. The BCT continues to work diligently to disrupt and destroy organized anti-coalition cells. One of our primary goals will be to continue the implementation of programs to help the local government work towards their own self-governance. Because of the BCT's determined efforts, over 80



percent of the schools within our sector were repaired and opened.

COL Kurt Fuller Commander 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment



On 26 September, the Falcons successfully graduated their first company of trained Iraqi Civil Defense Corps soldiers. For the graduation ceremony, the ICDC soldiers gathered themselves into a company formation where they were recognized for their accomplishments. ICDC are Iraqi men who are organized and trained by coalition forces to augment the security of Iraq. Coalition forces plan to use ICDC units for security operations throughout Iraq.

Since the beginning of environmental leave on 25 September, the BCT sent 62 soldiers home. Based on our current schedule, approximately 196 soldiers will take leave during the month of October. So far, this program has had a positive impact on the morale of all the BCT's soldiers. Another successful program available to all paratroopers is Rest and Recuperation in Qatar. Every five days the BCT sends

approximately 36 paratroopers to Qatar, where they participate in many relaxing and enjoyable activities designed to provide soldiers with a break from their daily required military duties here in Baghdad.

Finally, over 50 non U.S. citizens within the BCT are using the BCT's legal team to acquire their citizenship through the INS. This is the BCT's small part in honoring the President's executive order to expedite the naturalization process for soldiers deployed in support of America's War on Terrorism. So far, one of our soldiers has taken the oath of citizenship.

In closing, continue to keep us in your prayers as we keep you in ours. Our paratrooper's success could not be achieved without your unrelenting prayers and support.

COL Kurt Fuller



LTC Bruce Crawford
Commander
82nd Signal Battalion (Airborne)

Greetings to the All American Signal Battalion Family from the "Big Sand Box". All of the battalion's deployed forces have arrived in country and have closed on their final destinations. The vast majority of the battalion's troopers have been here now for about 45 days, with 21 from Bravo Company that are in excess of 8 months in country. There have been many challenges met and overcome by our troopers as they go about the business of providing communications to the entire Division. Morale is high and our soldiers are focused on the mission at hand.

As the Battalion Commander, I have never been more proud of our troopers, their efforts and the professional manner in which they have gone about doing the nation's work. Our soldiers have represented the battalion well and continue to amaze me with their positive, team player attitudes and ability to overcome the toughest day-to-day challenges. Both Command Sergeant Major Hammonds and I would like to extend our heart-felt thanks to the families back in the states that have continued to sacrifice and while providing steadfast support to our deployed troopers. Additionally, we would like to pass on our sincere



congrats to four Signal Battalion families on the "new arrivals" (births), since our deployment began.

Our soldiers are located in three primary locations West of Baghdad. All of the locations either have air conditioning or are planned to have it installed over the next couple of weeks, in both their work and living/sleeping quarters.

Internet access and the ability to make MWR calls is currently limited in some locations; However,

over the next thirty days, all locations will have MWR provided internet services, call-home capability and Armed Forces Network television with 6 channels of news, sports and regular TV shows.

Thanks to a lot of hard work by both the SSB and the Division G-1 Staff, mail appears to be moving along according to plan. So far it appears to take about 10-12 days for incoming mail to reach our troopers. Keep the cards and letters coming.

I sincerely appreciate the efforts to date of our Family Readiness Groups and Rear Detachment Command Team. My expectations were high but at every turn you have exceeded them.

Finally, I truly believe that our most valued and treasured assets are the soldiers that we lead and the families that we care for. You can take comfort in knowing that our troopers have undergone outstanding preparation for this deployment and are trained and ready to do what must be done to help bring stability to this part of the world. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers. God bless you all.

LTC Crawford, Cdr, 82d Signal Battalion

